

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 00365 181553Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 L-03 /021 W
-----182356Z 080898 /75-62

R 181500Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1360
INFO USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 0365

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ACLM APER (ALI JOHAR) SY
SUBJ: COMPENSATION FOR ALI JOHAR

REF: 1974-1977

1. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS NOW SPENT TWO AND ONE HALF YEARS ARGUING WITH ITSELF ON COMPENSATION FOR AN EMPLOYEE PARTIALLY DISABLED IN AN ATTEMPT TO REMOVE A BOMB FROM THE UNITED STATES PAVILION AT THE 1974 DAMASCUS FAIR. WE ARE NOW ABOUT TO BEGIN PREPARATIONS FOR THE 1977 DAMASCUS FAIR AND WILL SOON BE RECRUITING GUARDS WHO WILL BE AWARE OF THE LEGALISTIC AND PENNY-PINCHING MANNER IN WHICH WE REWARD DEVOTED SERVICE.

2. I WILL NOT REPEAT HERE THE ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF COMPENSATING ALI JOHAR. BOTH STATE AND USDOC CABINETS ARE BULGING WITH ARGUMENTS, JUSTIFICATIONS AND REPEATED APPEALS. PUT VERY SIMPLY THE FACT REMAINS WE HAVE NOT PAID ALI JOHAR THE COMPENSATION THAT WOULD BE DUE AN AMERICAN EMPLOYEE NOR HAVE WE PAID HIM THE MUCH SMALLER COMPENSATION REQUIRED BY SYRIAN LAW. SHOULD HE GO TO COURT WE WOULD NEED TO CLOAK OURSELVES IN DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY TO AVOID PAYING OFF ON OUR RESPONSIBILITIES. MEANWHILE, THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND COMMERCE HAVE SPENT FAR MORE

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IN TIME, CABLE TRAFFIC AND PURE VOLUME OF PAPER ARGUING THE CASE THAN THE ROUGHLY \$1000 WE OWE HIM UNDER SYRIAN LABOR LAW.

3. NOW, AFTER HAVING BEEN TOLD THAT A MEANS HAD BEEN FOUND TO COMPENSATE ALI JOHAR, MY ECONOMIC OFFICER RETURNS FROM WASHINGTON WITH THE NEWS THAT USDOC LAWYERS HAVE FOUND A TECHNICALITY OF WHICH THEY BASE THEIR

ARGUMENT THAT WE CAN AVOID PAYING JOHAR.

4. IN THE INTERESTS OF REDEEMING OUR SHABBY HANDING OF
THIS CASE, COULD WE PLEASE RESOLVE THIS MATTER FAVORABLY AND
DEFINITIVELY IMMEDIATELY.

MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
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Subject: COMPENSATION FOR ALI JOHAR
TAGS: ACLM, APER, SY, (ALI JOHAR)
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